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PP RUEHDE RUEHROV RUEHTRO
DE RUEHDJ #0380/01 1111711
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
P 201711Z APR 08
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9169
INFO RUCNIAD/IGAD COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNSOM/SOMALIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA PRIORITY 2282
RHMFISS/CJTF HOA PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

Sunday, 20 April 2008, 17:11
S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 DJIBOUTI 000380
SIPDIS
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DEPARTMENT FOR AF, AF/E, AND INR/AA
CJTF-HOA FOR POLAD
LONDON, PARIS, ROME FOR AFRICA-WATCHER
EO 12958 DECL: 04/20/2032

TAGS PREL, MOFS, PBTS, DJ, ER, ET
SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI FM REPORTS TALKS UNDERWAY WITH ERITREA TO
DEFUSE BORDER INCIDENT
REF: A. DJIBOUTI 378 B. DJIBOUTI 377

Classified By: ERIC WONG, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I.

1. (S) SUMMARY. On April 20, senior Djiboutian officials--including Djibouti's defense minister, intelligence chief, and deputy CHOD--were inv
2. (S) On April 20, Charge and GRPO met with Djiboutian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Ali Yousseuf to discuss the GODJ's April 17 complaint that Er

FRENCH IMAGERY SHOWS STRUCTURE ON DISPUTED TERRITORY

13. (S) FM Yousseuf presented low-resolution color photographs of Ras Doumeira dated the afternoon of April 17, which he said had been provided
14. (S) While Eritrean forces had "pulled back" on the evening of April 19, FM Yousseuf expressed concern that an estimated 3,000 Eritrean troc

MIL-MIL TALKS UNDERWAY WITH ERITREA

15. (S) In response to this "belligerent act," Yousseuf said the GODJ had strengthened its military presence at its base at Moulhoule (15 km sc
16. (S) To satisfy the GODJ's concerns, Eritrean forces needed to withdraw at least 1 km away from the demarcated border at
DJIBOUTI 00000380 002 OF 002

Mt. Doumeira, Yousseuf said; adding that international law required pulling back to 5 km from the border.

17. (S) FM Yousseuf noted that the GODJ sought to utilize "quiet diplomacy" to defuse the situation, and had not yet issued any public statemer

ISAIAS "A LUNATIC"; SUSPICIOUS OF ETHIOPIA AND THE U.S.

18. (S) The Eritrean government (GSE) was "very unpredictable," Yousseuf said. He underscored that Eritrean troops had previously attacked a Dj

19. (S) Yousseuf said President Isaias had complained, at the last EU-Africa summit in Lisbon, that there was "no terrorism in Djibouti." Isaias

ERITREA OPPOSED TO DJIBOUTIAN-BROKERED SOMALIA TALKS

10. (S) Recent business talks relating to the possible construction of a massive bridge linking Yemen to Djibouti had heightened GSE interest

11. (S) COMMENT. FM Yousseuf noted that no public statements from the USG were needed yet, as Djibouti sought to press Eritrea through "quiet